An athletic, playmaking center, Mika Zibanejad has emerged as one of the most well-rounded players at his position in the NHL, and established career highs in both goals (41) and points (75) in 2019-20. Originally acquired by New York in a trade with the Ottawa Senators in 2016, the crafty Zibanejad is a respected voice in the locker room and has served as an alternate captain since 2018-19. The Huddinge, Sweden, native was originally a first round draft choice (sixth overall) of Ottawa in 2011.

### One Timers

- **Nickname:** Miks (pronounced Meeks) and Miklo
- **Talent he’d most like to have:** Ability to sing
- **What he’d be doing if not playing hockey:** Pursuing a career in tennis or soccer
- **Actor that would play him in a movie:** Jake Gyllenhaal
- **Dinner guest:** Kevin Hart
- **Favorite superhero:** Superman
- **Athlete to watch right now:** Zlatan Ibrahimovic
- **First jersey:** A Rivaldo Barcelona soccer jersey
- **Collects:** Hats (about 35-40), and Manchester United jerseys (about 10-15)
- **Most listened to artist:** The Chainsmokers
- **Meal:** Yellowtail Taquitos from Sushisamba
- **Movies:** The Rush Hour franchise
- **Place to visit:** Los Angeles
- **Animal his teammates would compare him to:** Panda

### Loose Pucks

- Named the recipient of the Steven McDonald “Extra Effort” Award in each of the last two campaigns. The award is presented annually to the Ranger who, as chosen by the fans, “goes above and beyond the call of duty.”
- Was the recipient of the Team MVP award in 2018-19, as well as “The Good Guy” Award for his cooperation with the media.
- Parents are Mehrdad and Ritva. Mehrdad, an IT specialist, grew up in Iran and played soccer and volleyball for the Iranian national team before eventually moving to Sweden. Ritva, a nurse, is originally from Finland.
- Has an older brother, Monir Kalgoum, who played professional hockey in Europe through the 2011-12 season.
- Has an older brother, Monir Kalgoum, who played professional hockey in Europe through the 2011-12 season.
- Chose the #93 because it’s his birth year.
- Played soccer and tennis growing up in addition to hockey.
- Grew up a huge fan of Manchester United and David Beckham.
- His first job was working at Stadium - a sports equipment store.
- Claims the show Friends helped him learn English. Said Mika: “I’ve seen every episode about 30 times. I fall asleep to it every night.”
One of Zibanejad’s greatest passions is creating music, something he has been doing since the age of 18. In fact, Zibanejad released his very first single “Forever” through Elijah Woods Music in May of 2017 and has since released four other songs. Said Zibanejad: “I first started becoming interested in the EDM and DJ scene because I saw my brother doing it when I was younger. I got my own set of equipment and started mixing in my free time. Since then, I’ve really expanded it into much more from a creative perspective. I really love it and it’s definitely more than a hobby for me.”

Zibanejad launched his “93 Signature Burger” at a restaurant he co-owns in Sweden called Brodernas, which translates to “Brothers” in English. For every burger sold, Zibanejad will donate $1 to the women’s national hockey program in Sweden. “I felt that it was important because they don’t get the same type of resources and that’s too bad,” said Zibanejad. “And if you can help somehow and see the effect of doing something good that people want to go along with, it’s nice.”

Zibanejad finished 3rd in the NHL in 2019-20 in PPG (15), 5th in goals (41), t-8th in PPP (27), and t-12th in points (75). He also t-3rd in SHP (5) and t-5th in SHG (3).

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He led the NHL in 2019-20 in goals per game (0.72) and ranked 7th in points per game (1.32).

The Rangers posted a 23-6-2 record in 2019-20 in games that Zibanejad scored a goal.

He reached the 40-goal plateau in just 56 games in 2019-20, the fastest to do so in Rangers history.

In 2019-20, Zibanejad became the first Rangers center to register 30 or more goals in two consecutive seasons since Mark Messier (1995-96 - 1996-97), and is one of just five to do it in franchise history (Messier, Jean Ratelle, Phil Esposito and Mark Pavelich).

Since the start of the 2017-18 campaign, he ranks 5th in the NHL in PPG (40).